

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the contents of the Office Action mailed October 1, 2004, in which claims 18, and 22-24 were allowed and claims 13-17 and 19-21 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments.

By this Amendment, claims 13-15 and 17 are amended; two Replacement Drawing Sheets are presented; and the specification is revised to refer to V_C or V_{C1} instead of V_{COMP} . Accordingly, claims 13-24 are pending in the instant application.

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) because the limitation that the “time integral value remains within a predetermined interval V_{C1} ‘less or equal to’ V_{C2} must be shown” as explained in paragraph 2 of the Action. The attached Replacement Sheet shows that the signal previously referred to as V_{COMP} is now shown as signal V_{C1} , which is either at V_{S1} or V_{S2} . As described on page 8, line 7-14 of the originally-filed specification, the electric driving signals (V_{LCD1} and V_{LCD2} in Fig. 4) for the LCD electrooptic switching element are controlled in such a way that the time integral of the difference of the DC voltage component of the electric driving field never exceeds the allowed value. That is, the time integral value (output signal 10 - I_{nt} of Fig. 4) is between V_{C1} and V_{C2} . Figures 4 and 6 show the I_{nt} signal extends between V_{C2} and V_{S2} or V_{S1} and V_{S2} , respectively. This is illustrated in Fig. 3 where electric potentials V_{C1} and V_{C2} are connected to respective comparators and in Fig. 5 where V_{S2} or V_{S1} are the inputs for V_{C1} . Accordingly, it is believed that this

method of controlling is illustrated in the timing diagram and supported by the originally filed drawings so that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the claimed invention. Withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons explained at the top of page 3 of the Office Action. The claims have been amended to refer to square-wave electronic signals. As shown in the timing diagram, these square-wave electric signals have a polarity and varying amplitudes. Claim 13 does not refer to a “time integral value of the driving voltage” so it is unclear to the Applicants why the Action requests clarification of the same.

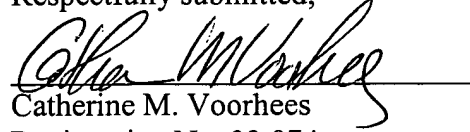
With respect to the phrase “DC voltage component of the electric driving signals” in claim 14, the originally-filed specification discloses that Preferred embodiment 1 provides long-term compensation of the DC voltage component of the electric driving signals. See page 7, line 17-page 8, line 3 of the present application. Thus, claim 14 recites that the change to V_{CI} is made only after the DC compensation cycle is completed. It is believed that the objected to phrase has support in the specification and is fully definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims are now fully definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings, the claim objection and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance indicating that claims 13-24 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would advance the prosecution of this application, she is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange such a conference.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached hereto are two Replacement Drawing Sheets showing Figures 3-4 and 5-6, respectively. As requested by the Examiner, the markings for V_{C2} , V_{S1} and V_{S2} are added to the timing diagram showing the Int signal. Instead of V_{COMP} , the legend describing this signal in Figures 4 and 6 is V_{C1} and V_C , respectively. Similar to the Int signal, the V_{C1} and V_C signals show V_{S1} and V_{S2} on the y-axis.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet (Figures 3-4); and
Replacement Sheet (Figures 5-6).